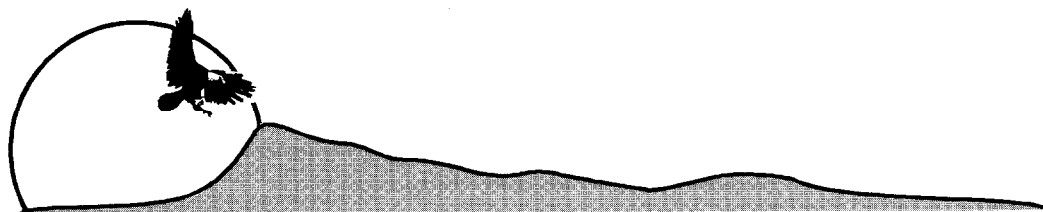




Native American Network



A RCRA Information Exchange

AROUND THE REGIONS

The Solid Waste Network: Creative Assistance for Tribal Governments

Indian reservations faced with the challenges of complying with the new municipal solid waste provisions of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) now have greater access to valuable technical assistance through a promising new program now underway in Region 10. Called the Solid Waste Network, the program is building an alliance of federal and private sector advisors to aid tribes in their efforts to manage solid waste.

EPA Region 10 developed the network in 1992 as an efficient means of delivering solid waste management expertise to tribes. Currently, staff from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Indian Health Services (IHS), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), and the Northwest Renewable Resources Center (NRRC) participate with Regional solid waste staff in network activities. EPA also provides contractual support.

One of the network's first projects was assisting the Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) in developing a solid waste management plan, a necessary first step in exploring viable alternatives to the tribes' current waste disposal method. The plan provides information on closing the existing landfill and has interim and long range options for waste management. IHS and HUD have entered into a \$150,000 cooperative agreement with the Umatillas for the plan's development.

In the next year, the Network will expand to respond to requests for assistance in at least three other areas. In addition to providing experts in waste management planning, the Region's solid waste staff has offered its assistance in source reduction, recycling,

and composting strategies. Region 10's Office of Regional Counsel will provide assistance to the Network for tribes that want to develop reservation-wide solid waste ordinances.

The Solid Waste Network offers a previously unavailable innovative, cooperative approach—and an unusual mix of creative energies and technical assistance—to tribes in solid waste management

Contact: Fran Stefan, Region 10 Solid Waste Program, 206-553-6639.

ITCA: Responding To Tribal Solid Waste Needs

The Phoenix-based Intertribal Council of Arizona (ITCA) recognized that the 21 Native American tribes in the states faced a tremendous solid waste management burden, a burden that took on more urgency with more stringent federal rules for solid waste disposal facilities on the horizon. Taking the initiative, ITCA approached Congressional representatives and committees for a special appropriation for Arizona tribal solid waste management.

HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ The Solid Waste Network
- ◆ ITCA and the Multi-Media Assistance Program
- ◆ The Circuit Riders
- ◆ Region 6 Tribes Meet the Feds
- ◆ The General Assistance Program
- ◆ Information Sources: IndianNet
- ◆ Bulletin Board



AROUND THE REGIONS

ITCA: Responding to Tribal Solid Waste Needs

ITCA's initiative certainly paid off. In 1992, Congress allocated \$500,000 to the organization through EPA's Multi-Media Assistance Program (see related item, p. 4). ITCA, in turn, entered into cooperative agreements with eight individual Arizona tribes to support their solid waste planning activities. ITCA also used a portion of the funds to provide the tribes with technical and administrative assistance and to sponsor workshops on solid waste management. An additional \$1 million appropriated to EPA for ITCA in 1993 will allow the organization's solid waste management planning efforts to reach more tribes. And, ITCA intends to request a third year of funding in 1994!

ITCA's effort under the Multi-Media Assistance Program is an excellent example of how tribes can confront a problem that they have identified as one of their most pressing environmental needs. has benefitted as well. Environmental staff have developed a sound expertise in solid waste management that will prove invaluable in the years ahead.

Contact: Julian Appel, Region 9 Solid Waste Program, 415-744-2103.

Region 6 Tribes Meet the Feds — And Each Other

Following the example of tribes in EPA Regions 4 and 8, Region 6 tribes recently met in two locations (Oklahoma and Albuquerque). Representatives from EPA, BIA, IHS, HUD, and the states discussed environmental issues, their respective agencies' roles in Indian Country, and the necessity for cooperative efforts if we are to effectively address tribal environmental concerns. The Oklahoma session was attended by 46 tribal representatives; approximately 140 were at the Albuquerque two-day meeting, some of whom were from as far away as Montana.

The Region 6 Solid Waste Section, in conjunction with EPA Headquarters' (HQ) Office of Solid Waste, sponsored the Oklahoma meeting and worked closely with the All Indian Pueblo Council in sponsoring the Albuquerque meeting. The agendas covered a variety of topics, including presentations by staff from a number of EPA program offices. At each meeting, tribal representatives made presentations on the "state of the environment" on their respective reservations, and shared invaluable insight on how they were tackling specific issues and concerns. Region 6 also led an open forum discussion on environmental issues,

which, at times, was quite lively as well as informative.

A highlight of each meeting was training on the requirements of the solid waste landfill regulations, and how they will affect solid waste disposal on tribal lands. Participants learned how to apply for and obtain EPA approval of their solid waste permitting programs; to plan solid waste management activities; and to develop tribal environmental programs. Attendees received an extensive package of training materials.

Presentations by EPA staff were extremely well received, and audience participation was outstanding. Region 6 solid waste staff have already seen positive results from the meetings. First drafts of rules and ordinances from the Wyandotte and the Cherokee (OK) submitted for review and applications for permit program approval are expected from several tribes in Oklahoma and New Mexico.

Contact: Will Lemmond, Region 6 Solid Waste Program, 214-655-6752.

[Editor's Note: Similar meetings have been held in Regions 5 and 9 and are planned for Regions 4 and 10. Contact your regional solid waste staff for more information.]

**Riding the Circuit:
Meet the Solid Waste Circuit Riders**

In 1992, the Office of Solid Waste (OSW) initiated the Solid Waste Circuit Rider program in an effort to provide hands-on, technical assistance and training to tribes on solid waste management issues. This team of RCRA-trained Senior Environmental Employees (SEES) work for EPA through a grant to the National Council of Senior Citizens and are directed and monitored by EPA Regional staff. Currently, Regions 4, 6, 7, and 10 have SEES "riding the circuit." We thought that you might like to find out what they've been doing.

Clem Egger (Region 4)



Clem comes to Region 4 from Kansas City, where he worked in EPA's Solid Waste Division. A civil engineer, Clem also worked for several consulting firms in sewage and water, and was City Engineer for Paola, Kansas. He had his own consulting firm for many years before returning to EPA as a SEE.

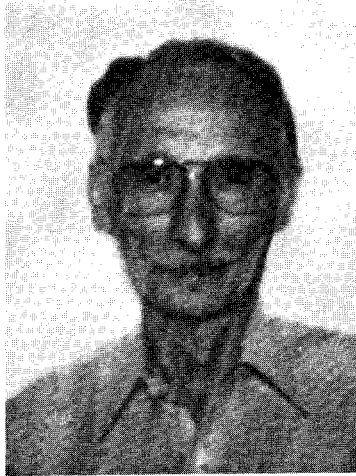
Clem joined the circuit rider program in January 1993. He's assisting the five tribes in Region 4 (the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians in North Carolina, the Poarch Band of Creek Indians in Alabama, the Seminole and Miccosukee Tribes in Florida, and the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians) on a variety of solid waste issues.

Clem can be reached at 404-347-2091.

Will Lemmond (Region 6)

Will has been in the SEE program in Region 6 since 1989; he became a Solid Waste Circuit Rider in May 1992. Since that time, he has visited approximately 60 of the 68 federally recognized tribes in the Region.

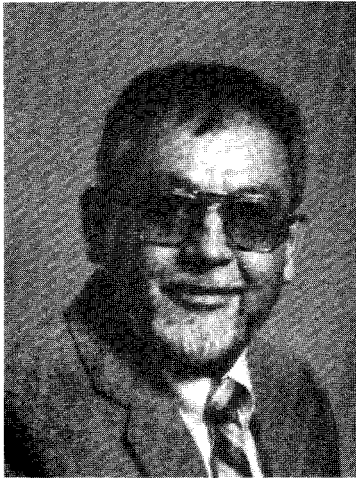
Will is a mechanical engineer who worked in a variety of oil production related fields until he retired in 1988.



Will has been largely responsible for raising tribal awareness of solid waste management issues, particularly the impact of the new federal landfill requirements. Two Region 6 tribes have submitted preliminary draft applications to EPA for permit program approval; six others have indicated their intent to submit applications. Under this guidance, other tribes are busy developing solid waste management plans, waste codes, and ordinances.

Will can be reached at 214-655-6752.

Ira Salvini (Region 7)



Ira Salvini, a Paiute from the Pyramid Lake Indian Reservation in Nixon, Nevada, brings to the Circuit Rider program, years of experience as an educator at Haskell Indian Junior College.

Ira joined the program in February 1992 and has met with all eight Region 7 tribal leaders. With the tribes, he developed an interagency agreement, which provides training and seminars for tribal environmental planners on solid waste management. He is presently working with three tribes in the development of solid waste management plans.

When not "riding the circuit," Ira spends his time collecting old pictures of Haskell Institute, attending Indian Pow Wows, fishing, and restoring antique cars.

Ira can be reached at 913-551-7817.

Al Latourette (Region 10)



Al, a forester, spent 15 years with the U.S. Forest Service in timber management on the Oregon coast. After leaving federal service, he did forestry consulting, volunteer work with local conservation groups, taught at a local community college, worked as a consulting forester, and played in dixieland jazz bands from St. Louis to San Diego.

Al works with the tribes in the states of Washington, Oregon, and Idaho. He provides outreach and training on the landfill rules; explains how solid waste practices affect water quality; and keeps Region 10's Reservation Profile—a data base and solid waste survey—current.

Al can be reached at 206-553-8202

MONEY MATTERS

Indian Environmental General Assistance Program Act of 1992

EPA recently held a series of three public meetings to provide information to tribes about the General Assistance Program (GAP) that was enacted by Congress in 1992. Under GAP, EPA must develop, by October 1993, rules that establish procedures for awarding grants to tribes. Although the authority provided by GAP differs slightly from the earlier multi-media assistance authority, EPA plans to rely only on its experience with the multi-media program in developing rules for GAP.

The GAP has two primary purposes: (1) to provide grants to Indian tribal governments and intertribal consortia for planning, developing, and establishing

environmental protection programs on Indian lands; and (2) to provide technical assistance through EPA to Indian tribal governments and intertribal consortia for developing multi-media programs to address environmental issues on Indian lands.

Some provisions of GAP are that:

- New grants cannot be less than \$75,000, and no single grant can be for more than 10 percent of the total funds appropriated for the GAP;
- Awards may exceed one year up to a period of four years, with grants renewable under a new or revised

workplan, if appropriate, after four years.

- General assistance funding does not preclude a tribe from applying for and/or receiving media-specific program grants.

As part of the rule, EPA will include a simplified procurement process for certain procurements less than \$50,000.

Applications from grants will be managed through EPA's regional offices. EPA will issue "call letters" (requests for grant applications) late in 1993.

Contact: Kate Biggs, OFA, 202-260-5078 or your Regional Indian Coordinator.

INFORMATION SOURCES

IndianNet:

A Telecommunications Network For Native Americans

IndianNet is an initiative to make a range of information services available to tribal communities. It is the result of a series of forums about issues on and barriers to more effective collaboration on waste management issues among the tribes, states, and the federal government. Tribal participants overwhelmingly indicated the need for more accurate and timely information.

Americans for Indian Opportunity (AIO) is a community-based, nonprofit organization serving Native American communities. AIO took up the challenge to provide fast and accurate information to tribes. They polled many tribes, and found not only a definite need, but also that 95 of the over 100 tribal respondents had the

technological capability to tie into an electronic network.

IndianNet is the designated Indian Information Center by the U.S. Bureau of the Census for the distribution and interpretation of 1990 census data to Indians. It has been designed as a tool for tribal decision makers, national Indian organizations, and federal agencies to find and consolidate information on Indian Country. Through newsletters and a bulletin board system, users will be encouraged to

contribute information to the calendar, send documents to the clearinghouse, and validate data in the tribal profile database. For more information on the network, contact LaDonna Harris, President, AIO (505-867-0278) or Ellen Hornback, Project Manager, IndianNet (202-544-7743).

AIO took up the challenge to provide fast and accurate information to tribes.

Enclosed with this issue is a factsheet that discusses proposed changes in the federal landfill regulations. The proposal was issued on July 22, 1993. Comments were accepted for 30 days from July 28, 1993. For more information on the changes, refer to the factsheet.

BULLETIN BOARD

Trash Management Guide

Small communities might be interested in obtaining a copy of the Trash Management Guide, developed by the Alaska Health Project with a grant from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation. Designed for small, rural communities with populations of less than 1,000 (and off the road systems), the Guide provides information for developing solid waste management plans, without needing expensive, outside assistance.

The Guide explains the importance of developing a plan to manage solid waste; explains management alternatives and forms to complete a solid waste management plan; provides references for further help in solid waste management planning, from technical assistance to grant sources; and briefly outlines the requirements for solid waste disposal, including the new federal landfill regulations.

For information on how to obtain the Guide, contact Judi Kane at 703-308-8644.

EPA/BIA Sponsor Training Sessions for New Mexico Tribes

EPA/HQ and the BIA Albuquerque (NM) area office are cosponsoring a series of training sessions on developing solid waste management plans. Participants in the three-day course are introduced to the Guide for Initiating Solid Waste Management Planning on Indian Lands, a workbook designed by the BIA Waste Management Task Force (of which EPA was a member). At the conclusion of the course, each participant will receive a computer disk that has been formatted with the contents of the entire workbook to make data compilation easier and more efficient. Followups to the initial training sessions are planned to ensure that work is proceeding smoothly. Participants will have an opportunity to get assistance if necessary.

RCRA Subtitle C Rulemaking Resumes

On April 27, 1993, the first meeting of the "reactivated" Tribal Authorization Workgroup was held at the Region 5 offices in Chicago. The Workgroup members, representing EPA HQ and regional program offices, discussed the myriad of legal and policy issues associated with delegating hazardous waste management programs to tribes. Rich La Shier and Bob Roberts in the State and Regional Programs Branch, Office of Solid Waste, co-chair the workgroup. Ideally the workgroup would like to have a draft proposed rule by the end of 1993.

New Publications on Solid Waste

OSW has recently released several publications on solid waste management. For copies at no charge, contact the EPA RCRA Hotline. Call 800-424-9346, or TDD 800-553-7672 for the hearing impaired, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., Eastern Standard Time. In Washington, DC, the number is 703-412-9810 or TDD 703-412-3323.

Summary of Markets for Recovered Glass highlights points contained in EPA's recently completed report entitled Markets for Recovered Glass.

Summary of Markets for Aluminum summarizes, in a concise brochure and in nontechnical language, the main points of a larger study entitled Markets for Aluminum.

Safer Disposal for Solid Waste: The Federal Regulations for Landfills is an educational booklet to assist the general public in understanding the role and proper operation of landfills in solid waste management.

Criteria for Solid Waste Disposal Facilities: A Guide for Owners/Operators is a "plain English" guide to assist owners/operators and communities with the implementation of the Municipal Solid Waste Landfill Criteria.

Household Hazardous Waste: Steps to Safe Management discusses what household hazardous waste (HHW) is, dangers of improper disposal, ways to reduce and recycle HHW, and safe storage and disposal practices.

Used Dry Cell Batteries: Is a Collection Program Right for Your Community? examines the economic and planning issues to be considered before establishing a collection program for used dry cell batteries.

Editor's Note:

The views expressed in *Native American Network* are those of the authors, and do not necessarily reflect or represent EPA policy. The intent of *Native American Network* is to provide a diverse array of information for those interested in environmental issues in Indian Country, and to provide a forum for information exchange among tribal governments, EPA, other federal agencies, and state and local governments.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Solid Waste (OS-305)
401 M Street, SW.
Washington, DC 20460

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Environmental Fact Sheet

Proposed Extension of Some Effective Dates in Federal Landfill Regulations

Background

On October 9, 1991, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued regulations for municipal solid waste landfills. The federal requirements cover location restrictions, facility design and operations, ground-water monitoring, corrective action measures, conditions for closing and performing post-closure care, and provisions for assuring financial responsibility.

Since October 1991, the Agency has received information describing difficulties many communities—particularly small ones—are experiencing in meeting some compliance dates. EPA continues to be concerned about the problems communities face in managing their solid waste, and proposes to amend certain effective dates in the federal regulations.

In addition, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit (*Natural Resources Defense Council v. EPA*) directed EPA to eliminate an exemption from ground-water monitoring for very small landfills in arid and remote locations. As a result, the Agency proposes to modify these requirements, along with their relevant compliance dates.

Action

EPA proposes to allow certain small landfill owners/operators additional time to prepare for implementing the federal regulations. The proposal does not change the basic requirements for managing landfills. The standards continue to ensure the safe management of municipal solid waste. EPA proposes:

- To postpone the effective date of the federal standards, for existing, smaller landfills, from October 9, 1993 to April 9, 1994. This extension applies to landfills that: (1) accept 100 tons or less of waste per day; (2) are in a state that has submit-

ted an application to EPA for approval of its permit program by October 9, 1993; and (3) are not on the Superfund National Priorities List.

Because of the recent court ruling, the Agency plans:

- To delete the current exemption from the ground-water monitoring requirements, and to extend the effective date of the federal regulations to October 9, 1995, for those landfills that previously qualified for the exemption (see qualifications in 40 CFR 258.1 (f)). This additional time will give these small communities time to make practical, economic decisions about managing their solid waste.

In addition, to the six-month extension for smaller landfills, the Agency proposes extensions regarding financial assurance and closure requirements for all existing landfills. This action proposes:

- to delay the financial assurance requirements for one year, from April 9, 1994 to April 9, 1995. This extra time should allow EPA to promulgate financial tests that provide significant cost savings to landfill owners and operators.
- to extend the cover installation time for landfills that stop receiving waste before the effective date. These landfills may have until October 9, 1994, to install a cover that meets the federal requirements.

Because the effective date of the federal regulations currently is set for October 9, 1993, the Agency needs to finalize this action as soon as possible. Comments on the proposal will be accepted only for 30 days following publication in the *Federal Register*. Interested parties are encouraged to provide comments on all aspects of this action.

Contact

For additional information or to order a copy of the *Federal Register* notice, contact the RCRA Hotline, Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. EST. The national, toll-free number is (800) 424-9346; TDD (800) 553-7672 (hearing impaired); in Washington, D.C., the number is (703) 412-9810, TDD (703) 412-3323.

Submit an original and two copies of comments to: RCRA Docket No. F-93-XMLP-FFFFF. U.S. EPA, Office of Solid Waste (OS-305), 401 M Street, SW., Washington, D.C. 20460. The Docket Number must appear on all correspondence.